Judgment for counsel when it is ready.

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Lk. 12:57 Why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

The "Question and Answer" columns of our papers. The questions asked of ministers-"Do you think it is right to do this or that?"
Jesus asked questions by hundreds of people. All kinds foolish and otherwise.
Most of the ?s asked because either of the laziness of the questioners, or because of their attempt to evade personal responsibility, or to justify themlelves in their own views, tho deep down in their hearts they know themselves to be wrong.

Since, to a certain extent, this tendency exists in every one of us, I have chosen for a text a portion of Scripture which deals with Jesus' method of handling all such cases.

Read Lu. 12:54-57

The crowd to whom the Master was talking had demanded of Him a sign of the times, utterly ingoring his teaching and his miracles which he had performed.

Jesus first reminded them of their ability to readily discern the weather conditions.

When a cloud arose in the west-
When a south wind blew-

They did not have to go to school to thus learn about the weather; or learn it out of books, or study meterology. They had observed the weather with their own eyes so frequently that they grew to know the conditions. By their own observation and common-sense-jugdment they learned from experience what the weather would be.

Then referring to the higher things of life, the spiritual signs of that time, Jesus tells the people to see for themselves and sudge accordingly, even as they did regarding the weather.

There Christ stood, a teacher sent from God, but many doubted His teachings. A Worker of miracles but they doubted His works, a Prophet of the future but they questioned his predictions. All right, then, said Jesus, use your own eyes and judge these things for yourselves and you will find that in everything I have said and done I am in accordance with God and consequently am right. Just leave me out of it entirely and use your own eyes and judgment and be guided by your own experiences. Watch others and study the big world of life for yourselves."

What a remarkable confidence Jesus had!

I do not mean the confidence Christ had in himself, for he knew that he was right, but the confidence he had in these very people who doubted him.

Christ in our text declares that tho the world rejexts him immediately, ultimately thru its own experiences it will be led back to Him to acknowledge that He was right and to accept Him finally.

Christ had perfect confidence in his own values because those values were based on fact and truth.

Let us apply this challenge of the Master in a few different ways until each of us is led to do his own observing and judging.

8. Take, i.e., selfish living.

Christ unsparingly condemns selfishness. "He that liveth to himself is dead" "He that saveth his life shall lose it." In all of his teachings the Master warns agsinst selfishness. And not less so in all his living example, for his life was so rich in personal sacrifice on behalf of others. The word, Chrst, is a synonym for self-forgetful-service. Christ and Selfishness are opposites.

But here is a man who refuses to accept the jugdme of Jesus, who claims that each person should look after himself and let the others fight their own battles. Take all you can get and give as little as possible in return is this way to riches and happiness.

Alright, says Jesus to this man, "you dont have to believe me. Then simply find out for yourself. Look around and see for yourself. Try and taste for yourself What kind of people are the selfish people? Are they happy? Have they many friends and are they well loved? Do selfish people know life and do they regard life as a big radiant inspiration? Will anybody miss them when they die? Tho they may live in mansions and palaces and entertain lavishly, are they not lonely and poor?

Ah, yes, if only we would investigate and judge for ourselves, if only we would take the facts of life, if only we would in all honesty accept the rverdict of experience, we should find that every word of the Master Teacher is rooted in the reality of things and confirmed by common experience.

II. Let us take the problems of conduct and habit, gambling for instance.

You hear both men and women discussing and disputing whether or not gambling be a sin, an evil, a wrong.

3. And always Jesus is in the midst. Men want Him to say that it is a sin or that it is not a sin.

Ministers are besieged with questioners who want t to know whether or not it is wrong to dance, or to play cards, or to smke, or to drink, or to what not!

To al such questioners Jesus is saying, "Judge of your own selves what is right. Use your eyes. Read the papers. Find out what is happening in all our citie and towns thruout the country. See for yourself the misery that gambling is causing, see the kind of temper i it creates, see how it saps the moral fibre, see how it ruins a man for honest work- that is what Jesus means, in regard to this, that and a hundred other different question He says," O that men would judge of their own selves!."

The looseness of the moral law to-day, the laxness in the most sacred ties of life, the contempt for constitutional requirement, the unmindfulness of Sabbath and things holy, the getting of riches regardless- why bring these question to Jesus or take them to the minister? Christ tells us to judge for ou rselves. Because of these things are men happier? Is life the righer? Is the world any better? The Lord is supremely confident that if we don look the facts square in the face and judge honestly for ourselves, we will discover that the evidence is all on his side.

III. Take, for another example, the state of the world to-day, and think of some of the words and teachings of Jesus.

"Seek ye furst the kingdom of God and His righteousness "Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth. "Love your enemies." "Turn the other cheek".

How we are prone to say that this will not work at all in our world, such as ours. Christ is just a dreamer when He talks like that.

All Jesus asks of us is again to judge for ourselves. Look at your slums, look at your strikes, look at your great greedy commercial exploitations, look at your secretly conniving, warring nations. What of the the distrust that is in thw world, and of the countries desolate and drenched with blood? Have these things made the world one whit the better? Have they established peace and confidence? ~~Do they give you a glimpse of a Paradise?~~ Are they contributing to the building of the K. of G.?

Yes, if men would only judge for themselves, learn from experience first-hand, it would'nt take the world long to come to the feet of the Master Teacher and learn further of him. When the world thus faces the facts squarely,

We criticize and condemn people for what they are: Jesus looked upon others for what they are capable of becoming.

The Negro-just out of savagery, ignorant, only fit to do our menial work and be kept in subjection.
What education and religion can do for them
Booker Washington, Washington Carver.
Many negros graduates of colleges and universities.

Chinese, Japanese and others regarded as inferior races.

The handicapped
The blind, the crippled, the weak
When they are our own and we love them, see what we do for them!

The less fortunate
The poor and less capable-worthless to society.
Exploit them and keep them down!
How about helping them?
Transform their slums into decent living qharters.
Establish trade schools for their children
See to it that they are properly fed and cared for.

Pensions for the unfortunate and oldsters.